and their placement into national mainstream. A child helpline, *viz.*, Childline is also being assisted under the said scheme. Childline is a 24-hour free toll service and any child in distress or any adult on his/her behalf can dial 1098 to obtain assistance for immediate relief and restoration to family or referral to Institutions for long-term care. This service is at present available in 61 cities.

The Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2000 provides for establishment of children homes for children in need of care and protection by the State Government itself or in association with voluntary organizations. Such homes for girls have been set up in Bangalore, Chennai, Delhi, Hyderabad and Mumbai.

The Department of Women and Child Development under the Ministry of Human Resource Development is also implementing the 'SWADHAR' scheme, which addresses the specific vulnerability of each of group of women in difficult circumstances through a Home-based holistic and integrated approach.

Social security programme for senior citizens

†2122. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any social security programme for the senior citizens has been worked out;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government are contemplating to frame any law in this regard;

(d) if so, by when the same is likely to be finalized; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN):

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(a) and (b) Yes, Sir. State Governments/UT Administrations are implementing Social Security Schemes for the senior citizens. Old Age Pension Scheme and Annapoorna Scheme are the main components of the programme for destitute old. Under the Annapoorna Scheme, only those senior citizens are covered who are not receiving old age pension.

(c) to (e) As the existing coverage is satisfactory, there is no proposal to frame a law.

Schemes for backward classes

2123. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of schemes introduced by Government for Welfare of the backward classes and weaker section of the society;

(b) the details of the financial assistance granted to the States, State-wise,

(c) whether Government have evaluated the above scheme; and

(d) if so, the findings thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) The details regarding schemes being implemented by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment for the welfare of Scheduled Castes and Backward Classes are available in the Annual Report as well as on the website of the Ministry.

(b) Details of financial assistance released under the schemes meant for Scheduled Castes and Backward Classes to States/UTs during the current financial year is annexed (Statement-I & II) (*See* below).

(c) No evaluation of the schemes has been undertaken by the Ministry during current financial year.

(d) Does not arise.